

WOOD STREET MISSION

# POST

AUTUMN/WINTER 2019



**W**OOD  
STREET  
MISSION

**HELPING FAMILIES IN  
MANCHESTER AND  
SALFORD SINCE 1869**

[www.woodstreetmission.org.uk](http://www.woodstreetmission.org.uk)





# OUTPOST

Welcome to this latest edition of our newsletter, as we approach the end of our 150th anniversary year. A landmark which enabled us to reflect on the work that Wood Street has done over those years but with the reality that there's sadly, still much work to be done.

Nearly 76,000 children are living in poverty, throughout Manchester and Salford. A truly staggering figure! Whilst it is right that we've acknowledged our anniversary, our priority has continued to be supporting struggling families and improving the life chances of local children.

We have increased our involvement with local schools through our Books Forever Project, with our Book Roadshows delivered directly to schools, particularly in demand.

Through Family Basics and the generosity of our donors we have been able to provide families with much needed everyday items. SmartStart continues to be an important element of our work, in assisting children to access education.

We've introduced a new element to our work, providing childhood experiences. Most of us can recall a particular time in our childhood, which left a lasting positive memory. We look to give children the opportunity to engage in events that many children take for granted. Through our Christmas appeal last year we were able to distribute over 11,000 toys and gifts, a project that has ran throughout our history.

The work that we do simply would not be possible without the help and generosity of our supporters. On behalf of all of us at Wood Street, thanks to everyone that contributes to making a difference.

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**DES LYNCH – MANAGER**  
des@woodstreetmission.org.uk

## SPECIAL VISITORS



**In September it was a pleasure to welcome Mark Adlestone OBE DL, High Sheriff of Greater Manchester and Councillor Abid Latif Chohan, the Lord Mayor of Manchester.**

We take great pride in what we do and it's always good to have the opportunity to explain how our system works and how it directly affects families who need our support. Both dignitaries were keen to know more about the appalling levels of child poverty in Manchester and Salford and how we are making a difference to thousands of families.



Thank you Ilkay Gundogan from Manchester City FC for choosing to spend his birthday with us and bringing us so many wonderful and generous gifts. The families loved meeting Ilkay who also got stuck in helping to sort donations with our team.

## NEW TRUSTEE

Earlier this year, we welcomed Emma Willder to our Board as Trustee.

Emma, Director of Beyond Profit UK has a long history in the charity sector and specialises in helping charities navigate the third sector governance and financial landscape. Married and living in Bolton, Emma is Mum to 4 boys and having grown up in the Manchester area and attending the University of Salford, is passionate about the region. Our Manager, Des Lynch said: "Emma is a welcome new addition to our team of Trustees. Her valuable skills and experience in the Third Sector adds great value to what is already a very experienced Board of Trustees."

Helping fight poverty for 150 years

## TOUGH CHOICES

No-one chooses poverty. In Manchester and Salford 75,480 children are living in poverty and their families are forced to make tough choices every single day.

For the last 150 years, Wood Street Mission has been supporting families with the essentials for day to day life – children's clothing, school uniform, toys, bedding and toiletries as well as projects focusing on reading and literacy. Whether it's time, money or essential items, your support for this work can make all the difference to struggling families. Poverty blights children's lives and life chances. We can only fight it with your support.

*Sometimes the children don't understand the situation. They ask "all my friends have this or that, why can't I have it?" My daughter turned 13 earlier this year. It was really tight financially at the time so we couldn't do anything – even a gift. She said it was her worst day ever – it's so hard for a mum to hear that.*

*Wood Street has helped with everything my children need and more. They have also helped me psychologically – I feel happy and relaxed at Wood Street, and safe and secure in my community. Wood Street Mission helps alleviate the stress and pressure I feel that I can't provide for my children. Nothing would make me happier than being able to give my family the things they need and want, but at the moment I don't have a choice.*

## POVERTY TRUTH

The Manchester Poverty Truth Commission is a unique process based on the conviction that we cannot hope to understand, let alone address, the causes and symptoms of poverty unless we involve the experts.

In this context, the experts are those who have a direct experience of poverty; living with the reality day in and day out.

The approach is founded on the belief real progress towards overcoming poverty will be made when those who experience poverty are central to the development, delivery and evaluation of solutions.

Unlike many other Commission processes, a key to its success is recruiting both commissioners with direct experience of poverty and commissioners in positions of influence locally and enabling them to have the opportunity to enter into real dialogue on the issues which come up

The Commission is gathering together people so that they can tell their stories, listen to one another, begin to explore what poverty means in Manchester.

During this time, the team is meeting with civic and business leaders who might want to join the commission.

Working groups will meet to look at the issues in more depth. There will also be a number of full gatherings of all the commissioners throughout this period.

Next Summer, there will be a final event of the Commission where its findings are presented.

We are watching with interest and look forward to the results becoming public.



**Rent or school uniform?**

**Tough choice isn't it? No-one chooses poverty.**



# WOOD STREET MISSION 150 YEARS 1869-2019

Inspiring a love of reading for 150 years

## BOOKS FOREVER

Throughout the year, thanks to the support of the Openwork Foundation, we've held numerous Book Clubs in the holidays.

We have been able to visit a number of schools in Manchester and Salford with our Book Roadshow and a van laden with thousands of books. Our timetable for 2020 is already jam-packed and we're looking forward to bringing the power of books to even more children.



## BOOK APPEAL

For the first time this year, we appealed for books instead of Easter Eggs and you responded to our Book Appeal in your droves.

We were blown away by your generosity and thanks to you, hundreds of children will be able to enjoy the delights of a good book or two! We are delighted to say that we received in excess of 5,000 books which is just fantastic. These books have been distributed throughout the year via our Book Clubs and Roadshows. For some children, these could be their first books and a great step to improved literacy skills.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

All through the year we need donations of new and good quality used children's books and your time! We are always looking for volunteers to help at our Book Clubs so if you'd like to get involved, please get in touch.

*I just wanted to let you know how much the year 10's appreciated the Book Roadshow yesterday. There were several students who walked in laden with books and spent the entire form time reading whilst lots of others were discussing the books they had taken away with them. It was amazing to see them so excited about reading.*



## COLLECTING BOOKS

Manchester is known for not having a beach but Rhos on Sea in North Wales does and it also has a wonderful little shop called 'Peculiar Gallery' who regularly collect books for us. If you're a business that would like to get involved with collecting books then please do get in touch.

Providing practical support to local families for 150 years



## SMARTSTART

This year our SmartStart project has already helped 3,191 children with school uniform and back to school kit.

Did you know that it can cost in excess of £220 to kit out a child for school? Just imagine if you've got 2 or 3 children and you're on a zero-hour contract or minimum wage, it's impossible to find that kind of money all at once and sadly it can push families to breaking point. We've also been working with the older children who are now required to stay in education or training until they are 17. Instead of uniform, we have provided them with books, workwear and equipment. Another opportunity to give young people the best start possible.



## EXPERIENCES

We also want to give children an experience that's not only fun and educational but one that leaves them with lasting memories of enjoying a great day out with their friends in the holidays.

The norm for lots of children but sadly far too many children aren't so lucky. Days out are just too expensive for the families and tough choices must be made. The tangible element of our work is vital but the memories we create last a lifetime and never grow old. Our thanks to everyone over at Manchester Museum and John Rylands Library for helping us to create some special days out this year.



## FAMILY BASICS

Our Family Basics project provides families with the everyday essentials that most people take for granted and this year we've been busier than ever.

On average we have helped 660 children every single month with clothing, bedding, toys and toiletries.

We couldn't do this without your support and although we will be winding down this project for Christmas, we'll be right back on it in the early New Year.

Thank you for helping us to help so many throughout 2019.

*The service, the kindness of the staff and the quality of the products they give away, such a positive environment and the most is how everyone is equal thank you so much Wood Street.*



# WOOD STREET MISSION 150 YEARS 1869-2019

150 years  
of generous  
local support

To everyone that has supported us this year, **THANK YOU!** Thanks to your support, we can continue to make a difference to the lives of thousands of local children. We can't possibly find enough room here to express our gratitude to you all but here is just a taster of what's been going on over the last few months



## DINNER WITH FRIENDS

On 3rd October a huge group of our friends came together to enjoy a special 150th Anniversary Dinner in the spectacular surroundings of Manchester Hall.

Our thanks must go to Justin Moorhouse who hosted the event for us and who kept us thoroughly entertained along with his great friends Andy Powell and Steve Royle. All 3 of these great entertainers gave their time freely and we are incredibly grateful for their generosity.

Thank you to the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, Mr Warren Smith and every single person that came along, your support meant the world to us. What started out as a night to thank all of our wonderful friends and supporters has actually generated a whopping £22,100, thank you all so much.



## FAZENDA DINNER

Earlier this year our good friends over at Fazenda generously donated us an unforgettable private dining experience in honour of our 150th Anniversary, to help in raising funds. It was a wonderful evening raising a fantastic £3,100 towards SmartStart. Huge thank you to everyone there, especially Tomas Maunier, Elisha Mistry and Executive Chef Fran Martinez, and all our guests.



## MANCHESTER YOUNG LIVES CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS AWARDS

We were absolutely thrilled to receive the Partner Organisation of the Year Award from Manchester Young Lives Celebration of Success Awards recently. We are so proud to have our collaborative work recognised in this way and thanks to everyone over at Manchester Young Lives.

## BACK TO THE 80s

Back in the summer our mascot Woody had a smasher of a day at the Back2The80s Festival. Big thanks to everyone who supported us including our hardworking volunteers from Argyle NW Construction.



## COAST TO COAST

Manchester based John Crane has been actively supporting us over the last year with Christmas presents, books, school uniforms and donations for our Family Basics project. In September they decided to go one step further by cycling a coast to coast route from Whitehaven to Tynemouth. The team rode over 157 miles, with over 48,000 turns of the pedals each, 1 grazed knee but zero punctures. Over £1,100 was raised and huge thanks go to Dave Cobham, Andrew Skelhorn, Zahir Raniwalla, Mossab BanJaber, Sterling Shulver, Kris Robbins and Han Tian.



## #150FOR WOOD STREET

We have some wonderful supporters who've come up with some great and innovative ideas to help us celebrate our big anniversary. Regular supporters Hayley and Ed came up with a lovely way to do just that by donating 150 jars of yummy baby food.



## PIZZA RUN

The team from Core Talent continue to go the extra mile for us and back in June they really did go the extra mile by taking part in the Pizza Run in fancy dress!

A fantastic event set in the beautiful surroundings of Heaton Park, the team enjoyed pizza at the finish and the pizza shaped medals! Huge thanks again to Core Talent.



## A STITCH IN TIME

Pauline Kirton was fascinated by our history and came up with the idea of creating a wall-hanging that depicted our journey over the last 150 years.

This stunning piece of work will take pride of place in Wood Street and our heartfelt thanks go to Pauline for such a special gift to commemorate our 150th Anniversary.

### FICHTNER CONSULTING ENGINEERS

has raised in excess of £4,000 for us over the last 12 months after choosing us as their Charity of the Year. From the Great Manchester Run to Tough Mudder and sales of homemade honey, we are incredibly grateful for the tireless support.

### SELICK PARTNERSHIP

has certainly been to the dizzy heights in raising money for us over the last year including abseiling and endless volunteering. Big thanks to the team.

**VERTICAL RECRUITMENT** certainly haven't been horizontal when it comes to thinking up ideas to support us. We were honoured to have been chosen as their very first Charity of the Year and their plans kicked off in style with them taking on the challenge that is Scafell Pike. Thanks so much everyone.

## STAY IN TOUCH

If you've already signed up or are taking part in an activity for us then get in touch. We'd love to hear all about it and see your pics. You can contact us using these details and we'll be in touch.

**Twitter** @WoodSt\_Mission

**Facebook** WoodStreetMission

**Instagram** woodstreetmission  
info@woodstreetmission.org.uk



We didn't need to wait for the official BBC series when our fabulous friends over at Kuits SOLICITORS laid on their very own Strictly Kuits.

It was very much all about the glitter and sequins (and that was just our Des!) as we helped Kuits Solicitors celebrate their 110th birthday! Thanks so much for your continued support.



# Every child deserves to have a special Christmas



You can help the thousands of children in Manchester and Salford whose families struggle to make ends meet. Help create some lovely Christmas memories for local children.

Here's how:



**Donate new toys, books or gifts** suitable for children aged 0-14 years old. Visit our website for a list of ideas. Please don't forget older children!



**Give to our appeal securely online** at [www.woodstreetmission.org.uk](http://www.woodstreetmission.org.uk)



**Organise a Christmas Jumper Day** or other event to raise funds. Contact [sophie@woodstreetmission.org.uk](mailto:sophie@woodstreetmission.org.uk) to let us know your plans, and have fun!



Spread the word – share our appeal online using **#woodstreetxmas** and **#woodstreet150** to recognise our support of local children at Christmas since 1869



**We will be accepting donations until Friday 13th December, please try to get yours to us as early as possible.**



**Thank you so much for your support!**

You can drop gifts off with us at 26 Wood Street, M3 3EF from Monday to Friday 8.30am–4.30pm.

To arrange a collection please call 0161 834 3140 or email [collections@woodstreetmission.org.uk](mailto:collections@woodstreetmission.org.uk)

